

TSE-0039; Panel Discussion (contd)

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1 the Department of Energy waste.

2 **TSE-0039** MR. TIM TAKARO: It didn't
3 have the risk estimates for these various
4 wastes, it didn't have the arrows coming here,
5 going there, it didn't have the information
6 that we need to make decisions like we are
7 being asked to make in this EIS.

8 So when are we going to have the
9 comprehensive publicly vetted national strategy
10 on nuclear materials disposition for this
11 country? Not going to do it?

12 MR. MATT McCORMICK: Can't
13 answer it.

14 MR. DEE WILLIS: That's a
15 comment, as well as a question, I would say.

16 Tom.

17 MR. THOMAS CARPENTER: That
18 Waste Management Programmatic Environmental
19 Impact Statement was pretty well ridiculed at
20 the time it came out as junk.

21 USA Today ran an article on it
22 called the 59million dollar lemon. Is this
23 nuclear waste study worth the paper it's
24 written on? And it quotes from, they quoted
25 scientists inside the DOE as saying that the

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Panel Discussion (contd)

1 study was so flawed, so incomplete and so
2 irrelevant that the Energy Department needs at
3 least three more studies to fill in the gaps.

4 Someone else called it a comedy of
5 errors or a tragedy of errors. So it is not
6 exactly heart warming to hear that study
7 referred to.

8 MR. GERRY POLLET: And a
9 Federal Court found that it was legally
10 inadequate, and much of the waste that's now
11 slated to come to Hanford wasn't covered in
12 that. They tried to rely on it for the
13 decision to ship the waste here, but it left
14 out all the cleanup wastes.

15 And the Federal Court found that
16 that violated the National Environmental Policy
17 Act. But yet they are now saying, well, we
18 have already made the decision to ship this
19 quantity of waste to Hanford, and we are not
20 going to revisit whether or not to send it
21 here.

22 MR. DEE WILLIS: Gerry, what
23 do you mean by cleanup waste?

24 MR. GERRY POLLET: All the
25 waste from cleanup of other nuclear weapons

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Panel Discussion (contd)

1 sites were left out of the Waste Management
2 Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement.
3 They have a more technical term for it called
4 environmental restoration waste.

5 MR. DEE WILLIS: Okay.

6 MS. VALERIE SHUBERT: I guess
7 my question is for Mike. I am Valerie Shubert.

8 I have been thinking about the model
9 for the transportation risks, and it seems to
10 me that if they based their model on the number
11 of accidents that already occur on the
12 highways, that might not be valid if there's
13 more traffic over the highways. And I don't
14 know how that would be dealt with. And I was
15 wanting to get an answer to that.

16 MR. MICHAEL COLLINS: If you
17 are just talking about the number of trucks
18 coming, just on an accident basis, it's
19 actually a very, very, very small percentage of
20 everything that's on the road.

21 So, just from the standpoint of
22 truck accidents, it doesn't make much of a
23 difference in the accident statistics.

24 MR. DEE WILLIS: Panel?

25 MR. GERRY POLLET: Didn't we

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Panel Discussion (contd)

1 hear in La Grande, I think that on the I-84
2 pass, the Oregon Department of Transportation
3 person told us that at the La Grande, Oregon,
4 hearing, that they had 18,000 trucks a day.

5 MR. MICHAEL COLLINS: Yeah. A
6 lot.

7 MR. GERRY POLLET: So, 70,000,
8 the cumulative impact we have to worry about is
9 how many accidents occur in 70,000 truck loads
10 going across mountain passes that the Oregon
11 Department of Transportation said were two of
12 the five most dangerous mountain passes in the
13 United States, and things like that, and the
14 detours around the community.

15 But, your question about, can you
16 use accident statistics? We'd like them to use
17 route specific, you know, highway specific,
18 segment specific accident statistics, because
19 this is just a portion, a small portion of the
20 trucks on each segment.

21 MR. MICHAEL COLLINS: And those
22 accident statistics, even for those portions of
23 highways that you select, were built into that
24 Rad-Tran model.

25 MR. THOMAS CARPENTER: Which I

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Panel Discussion (contd)

1 think California's population is growing, what,
2 12 percent a year, something like that. Mostly
3 from immigration into California.

4 I know this area is certainly
5 increasing in population.

6 I think that's what she's referring
7 to. Not the 70,000 trucks. But the fact that
8 there are more people moving into the United
9 States, there is more traffic on the roads, I
10 think we have all seen it, anybody that's been
11 here in the last 10 years has just seen this
12 incredible explosion of traffic, and the roads
13 aren't getting any younger.

14 MR. MATT McCORMICK: Well, I
15 misunderstood you, I am sorry.

16 MR. DEE WILLIS: Any other
17 questions? Raise your hand. One. Okay.

18 MS. JEANINE SEDGELY: My
19 question is if the Department of Ecology or the
20 EPA or both said, what if they say this EIS is
21 inadequate, we reject it, what happens then?
22 Do you proceed with your preferred alternative?
23 Is that something DOE can do?

24 MR. MICHAEL COLLINS: My guess
25 is -- We don't know, it depends on the exact

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Panel Discussion (contd)

1 circumstances of what they will say. So I
2 don't think it's an answerable question until
3 we know.

4 MR. MATT McCORMICK: And
5 remember, though, an EIS is not a
6 regulatorially approved document. It's not
7 approved by the Department of Ecology or EPA.

8 EPA does rate them, like this
9 gentleman was talking about in terms of a grade
10 on how well it does the job in terms of
11 analyzing what the impacts are, but they don't
12 get approved.

13 MS. JEANINE SEDGELY: So the
14 Department of Energy doesn't really need
15 anyone's approval to do what they want?

16 MR. DEE WILLIS: Panel?

17 MR. MICHAEL COLLINS: For a
18 NEPA document, for an Environmental Impact
19 Statement like this, the agency doing it is the
20 final approval authority.

21 MR. GERRY POLLET: But there
22 is a huge caveat, and I hope Tim Hill from
23 Ecology is listening, if Ecology says this is
24 not adequate, Ecology has to grant the permits
25 for any of these new landfills, and state law

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Panel Discussion (contd)

1 says you have to meet the requirements of our
2 state Environmental Policy Act, which is
3 tougher than NEPA, the National Environmental
4 Policy Act.

5 So if this EIS doesn't analyze, for
6 instance, the impact at the edge of the
7 boundary of the landfill, the groundwater,
8 Ecology can't go ahead and give that a permit
9 and will have to say, gee, you're going to have
10 to do a new EIS, just wasted however many
11 millions you spent on this sucker.

12 And that is a likely scenario right
13 now, as I understand it from the comments that
14 Ecology has given at the other meetings, that
15 Ecology's likely to say, well, you're going to
16 have to do some sort of additional EIS.

17 The problem is that we all get left
18 out of that process, unless they do a
19 full-blown EIS. They will have already chosen,
20 these people will have chosen what landfill,
21 what huge landfill to decide they want to get
22 permitted, and then Ecology will say, well,
23 we're going to do a supplemental, we will only
24 look at this limited issue, and we all get left
25 out of the fundamental choice, and it's too

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Panel Discussion (contd); TSE-0040

1 late.

2 MR. DEE WILLIS: Tom?

3 MR. THOMAS CARPENTER: Just to
4 point out, Jeanne, that the Department of
5 Energy and these folks here work for us, and
6 they are here by our grace, and they are
7 governing with our consent, with our taxpayer
8 money, and it's hard for me to believe that
9 they wouldn't leave tonight, having heard from
10 us, not one person really speaking out in favor
11 of this plan, and not take that to heart,
12 because otherwise they would be held
13 accountable if they didn't take that into
14 account and redo the EIS, or even stop the
15 shipments.

16 MR. GERRY POLLET: I think,
17 Tom, what they may have heard is that citizen
18 groups are not unwilling to sue to make sure
19 that the law is followed, because we have not
20 seen evidence that were traditionally heard by
21 the Department of Energy.

22 MR. DEE WILLIS: Before I
23 close this meeting, I want to ask, give you one
24 more opportunity to comment on the EIS.

25 **TSE-0040** MR. NANCY KROENING: Nancy

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TSE-0040; Panel Discussion (contd)

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1 Kroening again.

2 I'm just real curious, there wasn't
3 any mention of it in the EIS that I read, I
4 didn't read the whole thing, but I read a good
5 part of it, that these exposures to radioactive
6 materials and to toxic materials can result
7 decades later in cancer. And, you know, those
8 statistics just don't seem to be at all
9 available.

10 But there wasn't any real discussion
11 about how this happens and how the groundwork
12 is set early in workers' lives.

13 And my daughter-in-law is one of
14 them.

15 So I am extremely, extremely
16 concerned that, and anybody driving next to one
17 of these trucks for that matter, the scenario
18 is set for cancer.

19 And I had a dental assistant look me
20 straight in the eye and say, my friends are 40,
21 and in their late 30s, and they are dying of
22 cancer. What can we do about this?

23 MR. DEE WILLIS: Does anyone
24 else wish to comment on this EIS?

25 MR. JENNIFER MOORE: Jena

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Panel Discussion (contd)

1 Moore. I actually just have a question for
2 Mike.

3 I believe that earlier in the
4 evening you estimated that the average
5 half-life of the materials, the off-site wastes
6 coming in, you said the average half-life was
7 30 to 40 years, I believe, is that correct?

8 MR. MICHAEL COLLINS: I said
9 that, and what I was doing, I wasn't taking
10 every radionuclide and doing an average of
11 individual radionuclides.

12 What I was trying to do was
13 guesstimate based on the volume, plus the
14 half-life of that particular volume.

15 And what ends up happening is the
16 largest volume of radionuclides end up being
17 shorter half lives.

18 MS. JENNIFER MOORE: Okay.

19 MR. MICHAEL COLLINS: So it
20 brings the average down if you calculate it
21 that way.

22 MS. JENNIFER MOORE: That was
23 my question, where you were getting that
24 number.

25 MR. DEE WILLIS: All right.

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Panel Discussion (contd)

1 Anybody else? Questions or comments?

2 Thank you very much for coming
3 tonight.

4 MR. GERRY POLLET: Thank you
5 all for coming, and thanks for doing this
6 panel.

7 MR. DEE WILLIS: The meeting is
8 now closed.

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11 (10:15 p.m.)

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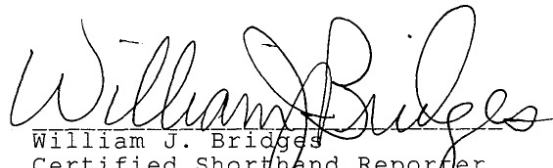
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